

Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Power Line Project

Issue and Comment Tracking, Proposed Action Scoping

The scoping period for the Oak Creek to McGuireville 69kV Power Line Project (Project) was held from Jan. 6, 2020 to Feb. 5, 2020. The Coconino National Forest (CNF) received 63 comment letters from respondents listed in Table 1 during this period.

Comment letters were analyzed for key issues and are listed in Table 2 by the identified issues. Issues serve to highlight effects or unintended consequences that may occur from the proposed action and alternatives, giving opportunities to reduce adverse effects. Issues are often identified during the scoping period to help set the scope of the actions, alternatives, and effects to consider, but the nature of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process allows additional issues to come to light at any time (FSH 1909.15 §12.4). Each comment letter received during the scoping period contains one or more comments, which raise specific questions about the proposed action, highlight considerations for effect analysis, or provide recommendations for minimizing potential adverse effects. The discussion column in each grid highlights points to consider during analysis.

Table 3 lists comments that relate to one or more issues noted in Table 2. Note that Table 3 does not include the full text of the comments; many comment letters include additional background information and can be found in the project record.

| Table 1 | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Crosswalk Between Comment Letter Numbers and Identity of Commenters | |
| Comment Letter Number | Commenter |
| 1 | Anthony B. Heard |
| 2 | Blanche Bettinger |
| 3 | Heather Bostain |
| 4 | David Hadcock |
| 5 | Darcy Hitchcock |
| 6 | Glenn Rink |
| 7 | Linda Schermer |
| 8 | “Walker” Amy Bidwell |
| 9 | David Whisner |
| 10 | Dave Fraser |
| 11 | Andrew and Jaine Merliss |
| 12 | Suzanne Lamarche |
| 13 | Chuck Baldwin |
| 14 | Ronald Krug |
| 15 | Pam Milavec |
| 16 | Dan Gaymer |
| 17 | Kenny Schipper |
| 18 | Steve and Donna Strong |
| 19 | Suzanne Hussey |
| 20 | Carol Jancek |
| 21 | Terry & Sandra Adair |
| 22 | William Stillwater |
| 23 | Shareall Joy |
| 24 | David Gill – Sedona Golf Resort |
| 25 | Danna Hendrix |
| 26 | Mariam and James Leahy |

| Table 1 Crosswalk Between Comment Letter Numbers and Identity of Commenters | |
|--|---|
| Comment Letter Number | Commenter |
| 27 | Ed and Kathy Cope |
| 28 | Bob Obrien |
| 29 | David Sheets |
| 30 | Frances Hawley |
| 31 | Rosemary Mays |
| 32 | Carol Haralson and Ed Wade |
| 33 | Melanie Ahlquist |
| 34 | Malcolm Boyd |
| 35 | Karen Cerilli |
| 36 | Robert McCall |
| 37 | Sheila Runke |
| 38 | Lew and Terry Speiran |
| 39 | Jill and Roger Wadlund |
| 40 | Frank Craig |
| 41 | James O'Brien |
| 42 | Lori Feine |
| 43 | Donald Ryan |
| 44 | Duane Thompson |
| 45 | Steven Carter |
| 46 | Hanah Caprile |
| 47 | Scott Shumaker |
| 48 | Robert B. Vegter |
| 49 | Chris Crawford/Pamela Kaegi |
| 50 | Steven and Ruth Carter |
| 51 | James and Diane Blair |
| 52 | Stacey Beck |
| 53 | Mary Morris and Scott Kummerfeldt |
| 54 | Mark Lawler and Rita Race |
| 55 | Joe Huot (Yavapai County Public Works) |
| 56 | Big Park Regional Coordinating Council (Camille Cox, President) |
| 57 | Lou |
| 58 | Debra Christian |
| 59 | Oded Yossifor |
| 60 | Elaine Brown |
| 61 | Kristina Jones |
| 62 | Bill Hendrix |
| 63 | Pat Hernandez |

| Table 2 Issue tracking – Oak Creek to McGuireville 69 kV Line Scoping Comments (See Table 3 for comment reference numbers) | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Key Issue | Comment Reference | Measures | Forest Service Discussion and Response |
| <p>1. SCENIC: The project would cause impacts to visual resources throughout the project area: violations to Coconino Land and Resource Management Plan (forest plan) scenic integrity objectives (SIO); and violations to the state-designated All-American Highway (SR 179).</p> <p>Burial of the 69-kilovolt (kV) line would result in less visual and other environmental impacts.</p> | <p>1-1, 2-2, 4-1, 5-1, 8-1, 9-1, 10-1, 12-1, 15-1, 20-1, 21-1, 22-1, 23-1, 24-1, 25-1, 27-1, 28-1, 30-1, 31-1, 32-1, 34-1, 35-1, 36-1, 38-1, 39-1, 40-2, 41-1, 42-1, 43-1, 44-3, 45-1, 46-1, 47-2, 48-1, 49-1, 50-1, 51-1, 52-1, 52-2, 53-1, 54-1, 56-1, 57-1, 58-1</p> <p>1-4, 4-2, 5-3, 9-2, 10-3, 12-3, 15-3, 16-1, 19-1, 20-2, 21-2, 23-2, 24-2, 25-2, 28-4, 30-2, 31-2, 33-2, 35-2, 38-2, 39-2, 40-4, 41-2, 42-2, 51-2, 57-2, 58-3</p> | <p>Visual impact analysis will incorporate visibility modeling and simulations from specific viewpoints to determine the degree of scenic impacts that would result from the project. Viewpoints would include Village of Oak Creek (VOC) residences, recreation sites and trails, and roadways including SR 179.</p> <p>The degree of visual and related environmental impacts and the level of ground disturbance resulting from construction of overhead and underground alternatives would be analyzed. The results of the engineering analysis will be used to evaluate underground 69kV line construction feasibility.</p> | <p>The SIOs specified in the March 2018 forest plan would likely be amended on a project level due to scenic impacts. This project would use self-weathering steel monopoles due to their structural stability and longevity, and non-specular conductors to minimize glare. The poles surface would resemble wood. The proposed project route would parallel portions of existing linear features, including roads, power lines, and pipelines. The new poles would support double circuit 69kV lines to allow existing 69kV structures to be removed where they parallel the new 69kV lines. NEPA approach: Multiple alternatives will be considered in detail that would minimize potential visual impacts based on the Forest Plan.</p> <p>Both overhead and underground lines are being considered in the analysis. The CNF will select an alternative based on the results of the environmental analysis, the CNF Plan, and other factors. The selected alternative will be based on the information included in the analysis of effects of each alternative.</p> |
| <p>2. SAFE OPERATION: Concerns for health and safety as it relates to fire hazards, the introduction of 5G, and the integrity of infrastructure associated with implementation of a power line in a natural area.</p> | <p>2-1, 3-1, 5-2, 7-1, 15-2, 22-6, 26-3, 33-1, 48-2, 49-2</p> | <p>The proposed project design would be evaluated for consistency with health and safety standards. A new power line corridor would include vegetation maintenance to limit the potential for fire hazard. The effects of the vegetation maintenance would also be analyzed in the environmental analysis document,</p> | <p>Arizona Public Service (APS) designs and maintains transmission and power line corridors according to industry and Western Electrical Coordinating Council standards. APS does not install 5G mobile network facilities, and none would be added for the proposed project. Any proposal to add 5G mobile network facilities would require additional analysis and review under the National Environmental Policy Act.</p> |

| Table 2 Issue tracking – Oak Creek to McGuireville 69 kV Line Scoping Comments (See Table 3 for comment reference numbers) | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Key Issue | Comment Reference | Measures | Forest Service Discussion and Response |
| 3. RECREATION: The project would result in a loss or decrease of high-quality recreational opportunities, particularly south of the Village of Oak Creek on the Kel Fox Trail and could have visual effects to users of the White Hills Motorized Trail. | 10-2, 13-1, 17-1, 22-2, 22-4, 27-2, 53-2, 54-4, 56-2 | Impacts to recreation use will be evaluated to measure the degree of potential conflict with trail or recreation site use, and consistency with SIOs (see Issue No. 1) during and after construction. | Alternatives that maximize the use of existing roads, which would have a minimal impact on trails, will be considered. Design features are being added to minimize potential effects to recreation where practicable. Where established roads cannot be used, temporary access or dirt roads may be used during construction. In accordance with the CNF, structures would be placed in locations to minimize impacts to existing recreation trails. APS would use weathered steel monopoles, resembling the appearance of wood, throughout the project. In addition, APS would use non-specular conductors to minimize glare. |
| 4. TRAFFIC: The project would cause an increase in traffic due to construction. | 11-1, 44-1, 55-1 | The increase in traffic will be estimated to account for vehicles and equipment needed for project construction. Mitigation measures will be required to minimize the impacts of construction traffic. | APS would coordinate with the Yavapai County Department of Transportation and Public Works to implement required safety enhancements during construction. Use of construction signage and flaggers, temporary road closures, potential detours, and work zones would be established to help minimize traffic safety concerns. Roadside vegetation also would be trimmed for sight distance and traffic safety, and construction windows outside of heavier traffic periods would be designated. |
| 5. ECONOMICS: The project could impact property values and the important economic value of tourism that is dependent on the scenic resources in the VOC area. | 11-2, 12-2, 22-3, 28-2, 29-1, 45-2, 50-2, 52-1 | Visual resource impact studies will be conducted to address concerns that the proposed project would affect property values and tourism. (see Issue No. 1) | The NEPA analysis will evaluate potential indirect and cumulative socioeconomic effects related to visual or scenic resource impacts. Economic impacts such as changes to future property values and tourism activities resulting from the project will be addressed qualitatively. |
| 6. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Biological concerns for sensitive wildlife and the regional ecosystem from construction and operation of the project should be addressed. | 1-3, 3-2, 6-1, 13-3, 22-7, 26-1, 27-4, 28-3, 29-1, 40-1, 44-2, 47-1, 54-2, 58-2 | Sensitive species habitat would be identified, and systematic botanical surveys will be conducted. Biological resource impacts resulting from construction and operation and maintenance of the proposed project will be analyzed. | Additional surveys would be conducted prior to construction, and design features would be implemented to minimize impacts on biological resources such as: proper grading of new roadways to minimize erosion, replacing vegetation used for slope protection, avoiding disturbing soil and vegetation where possible, and utilizing culverts where necessary to the extent possible. In addition, alternatives, such as using existing roadways to locate the line to minimize habitat loss and fragmentation, would be included for detailed review. |
| 7. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Cultural concerns related to | 1-2, 8-2, 13-2, 22-5, 26-2, 27-3, 29-1, 47-1, 54-3 | Although petroglyphs would not be disturbed by the project, any potential direct and indirect | Cultural sensitivity monitoring as well as Class I and Class III cultural field studies would be completed prior to construction. The alternatives would be surveyed, and mitigation measures |

| Table 2 Issue tracking – Oak Creek to McGuireville 69 kV Line Scoping Comments (See Table 3 for comment reference numbers) | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Key Issue | Comment Reference | Measures | Forest Service Discussion and Response |
| petroglyphs in the area should be addressed. | | impacts to petroglyphs and other cultural resources will be fully analyzed. | would be included to the extent practicable to minimize impacts to cultural resources. |
| 8. NEPA PROCESS: Concerns were stated regarding the scoping process, such as the length of the comment period and lack of detail provided in scoping letter and issues related to the link on the CNF website. | 59-1, 60-1, 61-1, 62-1, 63-1 | The CNF follows U.S. Forest Service and other federal guidelines to ensure adequate implementation of the NEPA process. | NEPA guidelines indicate comment period lengths and processes. Published advertisements, an open house meeting, and a project website were set up to provide the public with information. The project website is updated routinely to provide details and updated information as it becomes public. Additional public participation opportunities will also be available through the NEPA process, including a comment period and objection process for those that previously submitted substantive comments. |
| 9. PURPOSE AND NEED: Why is the APS 69kV line needed? | 11-3, 14-1, 18-1, 32-2, 34-2, 37-1, 40-3, 47-2, 50-3 | More information on the need for the new power line will be identified in the Purpose and Need statement in the Environmental Assessment. | The existing line is a radial line that serves a substation without a redundant (backup) power line from another source. By connecting the Oak Creek and McGuireville substations, the radial power line is eliminated at each substation and provides backup power for the Verde to Capital Butte and Quail Springs 69kV lines. It would prevent the loss of approximately 22 megawatts of load at the Oak Creek substation in the event of an outage of the Verde to Capital Butte 69kV line. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| 1-1 | Utility line should be buried to maintain scenic values. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 1-2 | Where . . . cultural . . . concerns prevent the burial of utility lines, site-specific design features should be developed to protect scenic values. | Cultural Resources | See Issue 7. |
| 1-3 | Where environmental . . . concerns prevent the burial of utility lines, site-specific design features should be developed to protect scenic values. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |
| 1-4 | Where environmental, cultural, economic or technical concerns prevent the burial of utility lines, site-specific design features should be developed to protect scenic values. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 2-1 | Protect from these lines and nodes causing forest fires. We have restricted exit routes in the event of a wildfire. We could be trapped. | Safe Operation | See Issue 2. |
| 2-2 | Don't want to see poles or wires crossing highway 179 at any point. Don't want view of any lines or poles running parallel to 179 while driving. This area is beautiful and should never be spoiled with power lines! | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 3-1 | APS is design(ing) the 5 G TOXIC towers (to) remove trees however they (c)an: burn (them or) cut (th)em. (S)ince 5 G does flow through threes. 5 G KILLS EVERYTHING. (B)rain tumor already happening. THIS IS SHORT TERM profit. LIMITED Vision (NOT 2020)! | Safe Operation | See Issue 2. |
| 3-2 | (B)irds already falling dead from skies. WAKE UP leave LIFE BE! | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |
| 4-1 | I respectfully urge you (USFS) to ensure that APS complies with the Forest's SIOs even it means that transmission lines be buried. The Red Rock All-American Road has recently been permanently scarred (visually polluted, by the construction of a massive storage facility and the equally massive Westin Element Hotel in the Village of Oak Creek. The construction of transmission lines within this national scenic byway will only pollute the natural beauty of the area even further. | Scenic | See Issue 1. The construction of the Westin Element Hotel is unrelated to this Project. |
| 4-2 | I respectfully urge you (USFS) to ensure that APS complies with the Forest's SIOs even it means that transmission lines be buried. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 5-1 | I would like APS to tell us what it would cost to put at least the portion of the line along Hwy 179 underground. This would improve the views of the red rocks. Ideally the entire line would go underground but the most important section would be in and around VOC. | Scenic | See Issues 1. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| 5-2 | Burying the line would reduce the risk of fire or power outages because of wildfires. We don't want a situation here similar to PG&E where people lose their lives or go days without power because the lines are still above ground. | Safe Operation | See Issue 2. |
| 5-3 | I would like APS to tell us what it would cost to put at least the portion of the line along Hwy 179 underground. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 6-1 | A number of rare plants occur in that area. A systematic survey for those plants and mitigation should be part of the plan. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6.. A systematic plant survey would be completed, and all NEPA biological compliance would be met. The CNF and consultant have been working together to map specific areas of concern which would be thoroughly surveyed. |
| 7-1 | I oppose the construction of this power line. We should be decentralizing home power (each home or area producing its own power via clean renewable sources), not building dangerous power lines that can spark fire as in Paradise, CA. | Safe Operation | See Issue 2. The current grid is not set up for decentralized power; new lines need to be added to support greater local loads and help mitigate the risks associated with the safety of those experiencing large power outages. |
| 8-1 | Of the 3 routes proposed, I prefer the one that runs alongside Beaverhead Flat Road. I think it would have the least impact to scenic assets in the area. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 8-2 | Of the 3 routes proposed, I prefer the one that runs alongside Beaverhead Flat Road. I think it would have the least impact to historic/cultural assets in the area. | Cultural Resources | See Issue 7. |
| 9-1 | I think it's a shame to hang more wire in the air and, thus, further desecrate the Sedona area's beautiful red rock landscape. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 9-2 | I know it's much more expensive, but this line (and the current line) should be buried. I would be happy to pay more. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 10-1 | As a homeowner in the Village of Oak Creek I cringe at the thought of seeing high voltage power lines defiling the pristine views as you enter the Red Rock Country. It is difficult for me to believe that you would want to have power lines visible from your South Gateway Visitor Center. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 10-2 | I have hiked the Kel Fox Trail and agree with the comments of others that were able to attend the APS public open house asking that the power line be buried along this trail. In summary I request that all of link A on your map be considered for buried cables. | Recreation | See Issue 3. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| 10-3 | I want to request that the new power lines running alongside Hwy 179 be buried. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 11-1 | We are certainly supportive of this initiative to improve service. However, the trailhead to Kel Fox is accessed from our driveway, and I am concerned about the traffic and large construction vehicles that would be used for this project. | Traffic | See Issue 4. |
| 11-2 | We live on the edge of the Coconino National Forest and were wondering if the larger Power Lines will be of concern regarding property value as well. | Economics | See Issue 5. |
| 11-3 | We are certainly supportive of this initiative to improve service. | Purpose and Need | See Issue 9. |
| 12-1 | In order to preserve the beauty of the Red Rock County, the lines should be installed underground along Hwy 179 and the Kel Fox Trail. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 12-2 | My husband and I own a home in the VOC that we purchased for our retirement because of the pristine nature of the area, and we paid premium to have it. All of the homeowners and business owners in this area will be significantly damaged if high voltage power lines destroy the gorgeous countryside that surrounds us. | Economics | See Issue 5. |
| 12-3 | It is imperative that all of Link A be completed underground. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 13-1 | I would like to voice my opposition to any new National Forest areas. In particular the area of the Kel-Fox Trail. I along with family members hike this trail often as it is very near my house on Palomino Dr in VOC. | Recreation | See Issue 3. |
| 13-2 | The valley looks much as it did when Native Americans left their writings on the rocks in the valley. | Cultural Resources | See Issue 7. |
| 13-3 | A power line and service road would totally destroy this valley. We need to protect our wild lands from this type of destruction. If APS thinks this line is necessary, they need to utilize a route that already has a power line or upgrade existing power lines. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |
| 14-1 | I vote to support the action of establishing the APS McGuireville-Village of Oak Creek 69kV Transmission Line. Those of us who live in the impacted area have multiple power outages each year and this power line would benefit the community immensely. | Purpose and Need | See Issue 9. |
| 15-1 | The USFS should require that this line be buried for two reasons. First, the proposed activities would not meet the desired scenic | Scenic | See Issue 1. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| | integrity objectives (SIOs) for the project area established in the Forest Plan. | | |
| 15-2 | The USFS should require that this line be buried for two reasons. Second, above-ground powerlines have caused fires that have cost lives in California. Requiring a buried line will help keep people safer and will keep from making this area less safe by adding yet another above-ground powerline. | Safe Operation | See Issue 2. |
| 15-3 | Burying the line will prevent adverse impacts to the scenic integrity objectives. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 16-1 | Any new utility wires in this area should be put (u)nderground. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 17-1 | I, and the Coconino Trail Riders, oppose the entirety of the 'West' and 'Central' group options laid out in this project proposal. Construction of a transmission line, and the additional roadway, would have a negative effect on the quality of recreation in these areas. Of specific concern are the White Hills Motorized trails on the West side of the project planning area. Construction of further infrastructure in a trail system already facing significant disruption (Verde Connect project) would only serve to degrade the quality of recreation in this area and foster ill will between the USFS and the off-road community in Arizona. Please consider granting permission to build ONLY along established travel corridors, namely the 'Roadway Route Group' as outlined as the preferred option in the proposal. | Recreation | See Issue 3. |
| 18-1 | We have no objection to the planned route along Beaverhead Flat Road. | Purpose and Need | See Issue 9. The Roadway Route is APS's preferred route due to the fact that it travels along existing roads, which would minimize the need for administrative roads and increase maintenance access. |
| 19-1 | Bury the electric poles underground! They are unsightly and dangerous above ground. Plus, they do not keep Sedona beautiful above ground! | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 20-1 | Our community works very hard at maintaining the beauty of this area. The natural view line is outstanding and second to none. By putting overhead power lines across the landscape, we are diminishing the quality of this area as a natural wonder. Please consider putting these lines in the ground. I know there is extra expense, but APS is a | Scenic | See Issue 1. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| | rich enough company that I'm sure the beauty and natural environmental future far out way the one-time added expense. I have no doubt that the expense will be recouped easily within time. | | |
| 20-2 | Although I believe this connection is vital to both communities, I would much rather see those lines buried beneath the ground. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 21-1 | Please bury the cable wherever possible. I realize this may be more expensive than the traditional tower type transmission line, but please do so and pass the costs back to the customer as we are willing to pay extra to keep the land view friendly and natural. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 21-2 | Please bury the cable wherever possible. I realize this may be more expensive than the traditional tower type transmission line, but please do so and pass the costs back to the customer as we are willing to pay extra to keep the land view friendly and natural. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 22-1 | The project could also be seen to unreasonably interfere with a right common to the general public—that of enjoying the splendor of the National Forest and its views of major landmarks such as Bell Rock, Cathedral Rock, and Thunder Mountain etc. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 22-2 | Proposed Transmission Line on Forest Service land would interfere with citizens use of land frequented because of its beauty for hiking and recreation. | Recreation | See Issue 3. |
| 22-3 | We strongly repeat that this project will affect market value and use from homes immediately adjacent to the final route segment in the Village of Oak Creek. | Economics | See Issue 5. |
| 22-4 | We strongly repeat that this project will destroy a long established, ... Public Hiking Trail. | Recreation | See Issue 3. |
| 22-5 | We strongly repeat that this project will destroy a long-established, ... ancient petroglyphs. | Cultural Resources | See Issue 7. |
| 22-6 | The strongest magnetic fields are usually emitted from high voltage transmission lines — the power lines on the big, tall metal towers. HUGE HEALTH DANGER concerns regarding 5G and Transmission Power Lines. | Safe Operation | See Issue 2. APS does not construct 5G mobile network lines, and there are none proposed in association with this project. |
| 22-7 | A 30-40 ft easement will mean many trees will have to be cut and now instead of a hiking trail it will be a roadway for vehicles and spraying of noxious herbicides will be necessary which will affect vegetation and wildlife. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| 23-1 | Without seeing a much more detailed, larger view of the area nearest where the residents of the Village of Oak Creek may be impacted, my wife and I strongly oppose any new above-ground electric lines. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 23-2 | At this point, if APS insists on adding more lines, we are okay with that, just as long as any new lines that can be seen by anyone who lives in the VOC are fully buried. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 24-1 | We request visualization from our homes and streets. We request the power line be placed underground when visible from homes in the Sedona Golf Resort. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 24-2 | We request the power line be placed underground when visible from homes in the Sedona Golf Resort. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 25-1 | Opposition to the above-ground lines proposed; our retirement home is in the VOC, which we bought for the unobstructed views. We could have saved tens of thousands of dollars buying where the lines are already overhead. An overhead utility lines here in VOC is unacceptable to us. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 25-2 | We are ok with additional lines if they are buried. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 26-1 | We oppose a 65 ft high line in pristine National Forest and near National Monument land with sensitive ... biological resources | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |
| 26-2 | We oppose a 65 ft high line in pristine National Forest and near National Monument land with sensitive cultural ... resources | Cultural Resources | See Issue 7. |
| 26-3 | A substation at Jack's Canton & 179 in the VOC impacts homes, businesses and a proposed new hotel causing <u>proven</u> health hazards. | Safe Operations | See Issue 2. No new substation is proposed as a part of this project. |
| 27-1 | My wife and I own a home in the Sedona Golf Resort on Crown Ridge Road. We purchased the home as a vacation getaway/future retirement destination. We picked the Sedona area because of the incredibly beautiful scenery, and overall esthetic values associated with its surroundings. We are strongly opposed to the construction of any above ground electrical power lines and related infrastructure. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 27-2 | Of particular concern to us relates to the fact that the back yard of our home looks directly up the hill to where the Kel Fox Trail traverses the hillside after leaving the trailhead in the Village of Oak Creek. The trail is a favorite of ours due to the proximity to our home and as such we are also adamantly opposed to the approval of an underground right of way along the alignment of the Kel Fox Trail. | Recreation | See Issue 3. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| 27-3 | We feel that even an underground powerline along the Kel Fox route would cause substantial and undue degradation to cultural ... resources resulting from the construction and subsequent long-term maintenance of an underground powerline. | Cultural Resources | See Issue 7. |
| 27-4 | We feel that even an underground powerline along the Kel Fox route would cause substantial and undue degradation to ... biological resources resulting from the construction and subsequent long-term maintenance of an underground powerline. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |
| 28-1 | While I would like to enjoy more reliable electric services from APS, the proposed use of metal power poles for this line is completely unacceptable. a new line along this route from the Oak Creek power substation, through the Kel Fox Trail area and then up and over the rise between Sedona Golf Resort and Beaverhead Flat Rd will be a more visually displeasing eyesore, especially because no power lines currently exist between the Kel Fox Trail rise and Beaverhead Flat Rd. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 28-2 | New, more visually impacting metal power poles will severely impact this pristine view and will lower property values throughout the entire Sedona Golf Resort neighborhood and neighboring communities. | Economics | See Issue 5. |
| 28-3 | We moved to Sedona years ago to enjoy the incredibly abundant resources of our National Forests. This proposal must not be allowed to go forward as is... Once a valuable natural resource is gone, it is gone for good. Progress is needed but must be implemented in a way that does not negatively impact the full enjoyment of our natural resources. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |
| 28-4 | The new transmission line MUST be buried underground to preserve the beauty of the National Forest surrounding the Sedona Golf Resort and neighboring communities. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 29-1 | I strongly urge you to follow the guidelines outlined on page 3 of this letter (guidelines for special uses, as outlined in the forest plan) when constructing this new infrastructure. | Scenic, Economics, Biological and Cultural Resources | See Issues 1, 5, 6 and 7. |
| 30-1 | Whatever route is chosen should be underground and not include above ground towers. This would meet the desired SIOs for the project area established in the existing Forest Plan. We would therefore be opposed to a Forest Plan amendment to allow above ground installation of towers as they would have serious scenic impact | Scenic | See Issue 1. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|--------------|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| | and would contrast with the desired landscape character, which is essential to the scenic beauty and unique landscape of our area and all communities in the area impacted. | | |
| 30-2 | Whatever route is chosen should be underground and not include above ground towers. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 31-1 | The McGuireville-Oak Creek power line project will directly impact one of the most beautiful and natural areas in the world. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 31-2 | Which(ever) route is taken, the lines must be burie(d) so as to not distract from and destroy this precious landscape. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 32-1 | We strongly oppose such an amendment to your well-conceived and much appreciated integrity objectives. At the very least, no matter which route is considered, the entire line extension should be FULLY UNDERGROUND. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 32-2 | We have lived adjacent to the Village of Oak Creek for almost 25 years and have never found APS electrical service unreliable. The extremely rare outages we have experienced caused little inconvenience and were quickly repaired. | Purpose and Need | See Issue 9. |
| 33-1 | I live in the Village of Oak Creek Sedona area and because this area is prone to excessive wildfires, I am adamant that electrical lines be buried because of the danger of wildfires adjacent to my home and the potential loss to myself and my neighbors... | Safe Operation | See Issue 2. |
| 33-2 | ...I realize there is additional expense to bury these lines, but it doesn't compare to the loss of a wildfire in the Coconino Forest less than a mile from my home. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 34-1 | I am opposed to construction of an above-ground electrical power line between McGuireville and the Village of Oak Creek because it would be an eyesore in a scenic area, visible from SR 179 and Beaverhead Flats Road, both of which I frequently travel. ...A simple, acceptable solution is to require APS to trench and bury the power lines. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 34-2 | I favor improving the electrical reliability in the area, but above-ground power lines are visually distracting in this beautiful valley. | Purpose and Need | See Issue 9. |
| 35-1 | My only comment is that they should be buried and not above ground for aesthetic reasons. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 35-2 | My only comment is that they should be buried and not above ground for aesthetic reasons. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| 36-1 | I strongly oppose above-ground power lines due to the fact that they will be an eyesore to the area and degrade the aesthetics of areas around Sedona. it is counter to the Forest Plan for the national forest and compromises the scenic integrity of the area. The Forest Plan is put in place and was recently updated to protect the national forest and scenery from things like this happening. The Forest Plan refers to protecting scenery, scenic roads, scenic trails, scenic byways, and scenic integrity throughout the document. If these huge above-ground powerlines are erected, it will effectively nullify the Forest Plan and render it useless. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 37-1 | I think it is tremendous. I hope you have transformers designed with the control of bluefire in mind. The terrain, wildlife, weather and problematic botanicals are particularly hard on such infrastructure. However, I do think it is a needed improvement. | Purpose and Need | See Issue 9. |
| 38-1 | We would prefer to have the cables buried along State Route 179 as opposed to above ground in order to preserve the beauty of the natural environment. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 38-2 | We would prefer to have the cables buried along State Route 179 as opposed to above ground... However, it may be entirely appropriate to be above ground on Hwy 17. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 39-1 | This is a scenic byway that should be preserved for all... | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 39-2 | ...(T)ell APS to spend the extra money and put the lines below ground. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 40-1 | I'm for the extra power to these areas however even if it cost more the line should be underground. Yes, it does cost more but the environment for the most part would be left alone. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |
| 40-2 | Let's keep our valley clear of poles that get in the way of the Scenery it's one of our biggest assets, people don't come here for the power poles. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 40-3 | I'm for the extra power to these areas however even if it cost more the line should be underground... | Purpose and Need | See Issue 9. |
| 40-4 | I'm for the extra power to these areas however even if it cost more the line should be underground... | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 41-1 | We want to voice our opposition to the APS proposal for an above-ground power line. While there may be merit in improving electrical reliability, an above-ground solution makes no sense here. The | Scenic | See Issue 1. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| | proposal is clearly in violation of the Forest Plan and entirely traverses areas where the Plan seeks to avoid scenic impact. | | |
| 41-2 | Rather than complying with this intent and using an underground power line, APS wants to override the Forest Plan. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 42-1 | I do not oppose the addition of the new line. What I do oppose is that it will be installed above ground. I noticed the proposed route follows the current route as it leaves the Village. There are already wooden poles in this area. The proposal indicates that metal poles will be added that will be significantly higher than the poles in that area (65 feet tall), through and along a residential area. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 42-2 | I understand the costs would be different, but I think burying the lines as they move through the Village would be a better solution than the current proposal. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 43-1 | I write to request that the Forest Service require APS to design the new line they plan in a manner which will have absolute minimal impact on the visual environment within at least a ten mile range of the Forest Service station on highway 179 South of the Village of Oak Creek area of Yavapai county. This should include the entire range of Beaverhead Flat road between highway 179 and Cornville Road. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 44-1 | I strongly object to certain aspects of the proposed project. ...Given the proposed major construction along Kel Fox trail, which is only a quarter mile from my residence. | Traffic | See Issue 4. |
| 44-2 | I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to impose stringent conditions on APS to mitigate the qualitative impact on national forest land for ...disruptions to wildlife habitat. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |
| 44-3 | I also would encourage the USFS to require the towers south of Kel Fox trail, and along the route selected along or roughly parallel to Beaverhead Flat Road, to be painted in an earth-tone color or colors that blend in as much as possible with the surrounding terrain. | Scenic | See Issue 1. Painting the poles would not be sustainable because paint chips off, thus requiring routine maintenance to keep the natural appearance of the poles. The proposed self-weathering steel monopoles have the appearance of wood and, therefore, blend better with the scenery. |
| 45-1 | This project will be very damaging to the “scenic integrity” of the area, irrevocably scar the landscape, and negatively impact Scenic Hwy 179 and the lives and property values of large numbers of private citizens. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| 45-2 | Near private residences, their property values personal enjoyment of their homes will be negatively affected by having 65 ft metal power poles near their property and obstructing their views. | Economics | See Issue 5. |
| 46-1 | I am opposed to construction of an above-ground electrical power line between McGuireville and the Village of Oak Creek. It would be an eyesore in a scenic area, visible from SR 179 and Beaverhead Flats Road, both of which I frequently travel. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 47-1 | I believe that Coconino National Forest should not grant a right-of-way to the proponent for any of the proposed routes, including the preferred option, because the proponent has not provided adequate information to the Forest or the public demonstrating sufficient need or future benefit to justify likely impacts to Forest resources. | Biological/Cultural Resources | See Issues 6 and 7. |
| 47-2 | Two of something is frequently better than one – but the public needs more than that to justify the significant damage to the scenic resources in the area the project would create. | Scenic and Purpose and Need | See Issues 1 and 9. |
| 48-1 | The APS project for high power electric lines should be denied unless the new lines are buried. Any above grade installations will be an eye sore. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 48-2 | (APS) should be made to install all power lines underground to avoid fires like those brought about in California from poor maintenance of Infra Structure. | Safe Operation | See Issue 2. |
| 49-1 | We are writing to express our great concern and opposition to the above-ground lines proposed. Our home is close to the proposed line location in the Village of Oak Creek. We chose this particular home as our “forever retirement home” specifically because of the unobstructed views... | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 49-2 | We moved away from California to get away from the record-breaking wildfires that threatened our homes every year. The historic Camp Fire alone killed 85 people. It was determined to have been caused by above-ground electrical transmission lines owned by Pacific Gas & Electric. The cost of these catastrophic events far outweighed the savings of installing above-ground lines. | Safe Operation | See Issue 2. |
| 50-1 | We are adamantly opposed to the power line. I(t) would irrevocably mar the natural beauty and scenic views of the area crisscrossing the pristine landscape and Scenic Hwy 179. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| 50-2 | The incredible natural beauty brings large amounts of tourist dollars that local businesses depend upon. Power outages in VOC are seldom and insignificant compared to the damage this project would cause, including negative impacts on property values. | Economics | See Issue 5. |
| 50-3 | ...Power outages in VOC are seldom and insignificant compared to the damage this project would cause, including negative impacts on property values. | Purpose and Need | See Issue 9. |
| 51-1 | My wife and I have been residents of Sedona for over 3 years now and our home purchase means the world to us. Our incredible red rock view is priceless, but the addition of an above ground high-tension power line would be an unsightly degradation to same. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 51-2 | ...(W)e urge APS to move their proposed above ground transmission line to below ground in its entirety to preserve Sedona's unblemished beauty. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 52-1 | As a 17 year property owner to land adjacent to the APS substation parcel, I am opposed to the development of the overhead lines. The proposed above-ground project would restrict my ability to develop the property. | Economics | See Issue 5. |
| 52-2 | I don't believe the project meets the requirements of the visual requisites of the scenic integrity objectives. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 53-1 | The Vision of the All-American Road Committee is to ensure a Red Rock Scenic Byway that provides an unforgettable, user-friendly scenic and recreational destination for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists visiting or residing in our world-famous Red Rock Country. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 53-2 | Our mission is to preserve and enhance in perpetuity the unique scenic, natural and recreational values of the Red Rock Scenic Byway through self-sustaining stewardship, partnership and volunteer programs. | Recreation | See Issue 3. |
| 54-1 | We are very concerned about preserving the scenic values of the Red Rock Ranger District and following the Coconino NF forest plan's requirements to do so. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 54-2 | We feel it would be unfortunate if the Forest Service didn't do everything possible to preserve the ecological...values of pristine areas of the Red Rock RD. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|--|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| 54-3 | We feel that the alternatives presented in the January 2, 2020 scoping letter do not provide a full range of feasible options that would be able to...minimize impacts to...archaeological resources... | Cultural Resources | See Issue 7. |
| 54-4 | The imposition of a powerline with tall poles and an access road would...limit the potential for public recreation in these beautiful areas. | Recreation | See Issue 3. |
| 55-1 | The West Route Group (Green) could potentially conflict with the County's Verde Connect Roadway Project and as such, we cannot support this route. | Traffic | See Issue 4. This project would not interfere with the Verde Connect Roadway Project. |
| 56-1 | We are primarily concerned with the impacts on Visual Resources (view shed). | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 56-2 | We are primarily concerned with the impacts on . . .Recreation. | Recreation | See Issue 3. |
| 57-1 | If above ground is mandatory, the West Group, green trail on the map would be the best option to minimize scenic disruption along Beaver Flat road. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 57-2 | My first choice would be to run cables underground which would preserve the scenic beauty of the area. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 58-1 | Why destroy rare, natural scenery and beauty. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 58-2 | There is scrub terrain on WEST GROUP green option which is the least interfering with wildlife, and it is clear enough for easy access if repairs are needed. | Biological Resources | See Issue 6. |
| 58-3 | My first choice would be to do it underground. | Scenic | See Issue 1. |
| 59-1 | My house is near the Oak Creek Substation at 110 Palo Verde Circle. From the map on the website I can't tell where exactly the transmission line will be routed. Could you send me a detailed map showing exactly how the line gets out of the substation, or how far it would be from Jack Canyon creek? | NEPA Process | The CNF NEPA Planner responded via email explaining which lines would be removed and replaced, the reason for the height of the new proposed poles and attached details about pole configuration from the June 2019 open house meeting. See Issue 8. |
| 60-1 | I would like the comment period to be extended for this reason. Who knows how long it has not been working? | NEPA Process | The CNF NEPA Planner responded via email with a comment letter attachment for the respondent to fill out as well as a detailed map with better visibility. See Issue 8. |
| 61-1 | Unknown. Message came through as a virus and was never received. | NEPA Process | This comment cannot be addressed. |
| 62-1 | I need to express my concern over your request for comment letter. It's confusing, at least to my wife and me. I am | NEPA Process | The CNF NEPA Planner responded via email with an attachment of the Project map as well as |

| Table 3 Text of Comments Contained within Comment Letters and Forest Service Responses to These Comments | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|
| Comment ID | Comment Text | Resource/ Specialty Affected | Discussion |
| | requesting a better and more accurate description of what APS wants to do. We can't properly comment on something we don't fully understand. | | clarifying information regarding new pole placement and heights. See Issue 8. |
| 63-1 | I have yet to see a map that is large enough to see exactly where this proposed power line will be placed. Would you please provide me with a link to one asap? | NEPA Process | The CNF NEPA Planner responded via email and provided a map with better detail and visibility. See Issue 8. |